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To: The legislature of the State of CT, Hartford, CT

RE Bill #SB408 and 408 An Act Concerning Mental Health Options for Adult Medicaid Recipients

Dear Legislators:

I am happy to know that on March 11th, you are voting on 408 An Act Concerning Mental Health Options for Adult Medicaid Recipients because there has been a long-term systemic deposit that will immediately benefit impoverished citizens.

The 3 major reasons that LCSW's should be included in Bill #SB408:

I am a HUSKY provider in private practice so why not Medicaid? It is well known in North East CT that there is often a 1-2 month waiting list at agencies that accept Medicaid. As a private clinician I can often accept new patients within a 1-2 week period. Time is of the essence to assess and prevent any unsafe crisis that may need urgent intervention.

I am a Medical Social Worker at Day Kimball Hospital in the Home Care department 24 hours a week. When I am referred to homebound patients who have Medicaid as their health insurance and are, I am instructed to request town funding. In this area, many towns no longer have funding so patients are asked to submit a financial aid application or do without LCSW services. Why can the Masters' level nurses accept Medicaid and Licensed Master's level Social workers cannot accept Medicaid for this at risk population?

Thirdly, LCSW's and Psychologists and Medical doctors often work together with a patient to help her/him resume their lives in optimal ways.

Sincerely,

Susan Cohen, MSW, LCSW, UConn School of Social Work Alumni '93, long time CT resident with family